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1. THE SITUATION IN JORDAN (As of 2100, 21 April)

Egypt and Syria, together with antimonarchical Jordanian nationalist groups inside and outside of Jordan, are attempting to prevent King Hussain from consolidating his position and may be about to undertake a struggle which could set the anti-Western majority of the population in West Jordan in open resistance to the king.

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The new crisis was given impetus by the king's appointment of a council of five army officers to investigate loyalty in the army, and by his replacement of 40 to 60 nationalist officers with Bedouin officers loyal to the crown. These moves and the arrest of at least eleven antimonarchical "free officers" led to the flight of recently appointed chief of staff Hiyari to Damascus, whence he tendered his resignation. Although professedly nonpolitical, Hiyari has a background of covert nationalist, antimonarchical activity. Following his resignation, Hiyari held a news conference in Damascus and accused the "palace" of "preparing a plot in co-operation with foreign non-Arab military attachés in Amman against Jordan's independence and liberty." Hiyari said that he had left when he "found he could not stop this plot." A Bedouin officer, Major General Habis Majali, has been named acting chief of staff.

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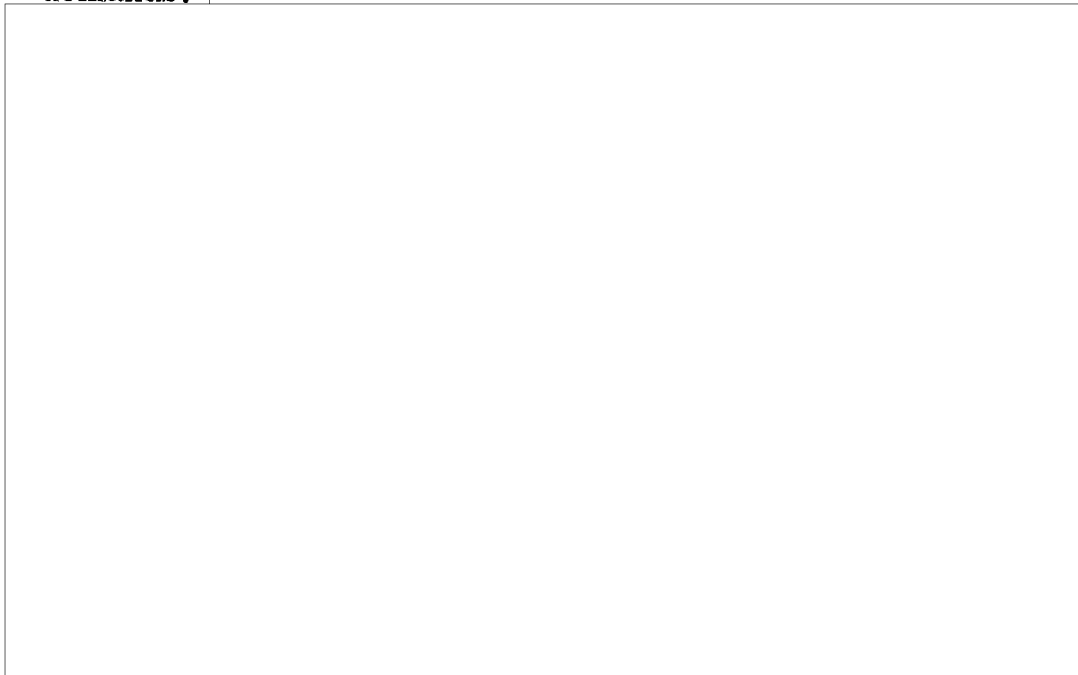
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Coincidentally with Hiyari's flight, active opposition to the King's program began to develop in West Jordan. The dominant National Socialist Party is reported to have demanded that its leader, former Premier Nabulsi, resign from the cabinet, and the leftist-dominated National Guidance Committees in West Jordan have circulated petitions demanding replacement of American ambassador Mallory for alleged interference in Jordan's internal affairs. Demonstrations have resumed in West Jordan supporting these demands.



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2. SOVIET NOTES ON THE MIDDLE EAST

The 19 April Soviet notes to the United States, Britain and France appear to be primarily an attempt to exploit for its propaganda value in the Arab world the Western refusal of the USSR's six-point draft declaration of 11 February on the Middle East.

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The USSR, while restating the validity of its original declaration, now calls for a four-power declaration condemning the use of force in the Near and Middle East as a first step toward "normalization." It accuses the West of refusing to seek an acceptable basis for a regional settlement. The three notes are not identical in their lines of argument, but they all reflect the USSR's preoccupation with preventing unilateral Western intervention in the area. For the most part, the notes merely recapitulate the established Soviet position.

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4. FIRST SHIPMENT OF CHINESE COMMUNIST AID TO CAMBODIA UNDER WAY

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The first shipments under the \$22,400,000 Chinese Communist aid program to Cambodia are scheduled to depart Hong Kong on 20 and 24 April, according to the American embassy in Phnom Penh. The aid will consist of 1,200 tons of cement, 1,400 tons of textiles, and "iron and steel cargo."

This shipment is being made at a time when anti-Communist sentiment is perceptively increasing in neutralist Cambodia. Peiping's long delay in implementing the aid agreement negotiated nearly a year ago has caused dissatisfaction in Phnom Penh, culminating in a newspaper attack on Chinese aid "promises" by a high Cambodian official during late March. Growing Communist subversion in Cambodia has heightened this dissatisfaction and has raised doubts as to the efficacy of Cambodia's present "neutralist" policies.

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